

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-53. Please add new claims 54-88 as set forth below.

Claims 1-53 (cancelled)

54. (new) A method of providing remotely located circuit design resources, the method comprising:  
connecting a plurality of user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;  
connecting a plurality of supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;  
making available a plurality of circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the plurality of circuit design resources being located in one of the plurality of user and supplier nodes;  
receiving one or more requests from at least one of the plurality of user nodes for access to one or more of the plurality of circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the at least one user node; and  
automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node.
55. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.
56. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein the component data comprises component data sheets, timing models, application notes, simulation models, and/or signal integrity models.
57. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of virtual circuit blocks, each of the plurality of virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.
58. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of electronic design automation tools.
59. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a listing of suppliers of integrated circuit fabrication services.
60. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise information on expert design services.

61. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal;

acquiring each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal from one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes; and

transmitting the one or more requested circuit design resources to the at least one user node.

62. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal; and

providing information to the at least one user node on how to access each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal.

63. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the information provided to the at least one user node comprises linking information to one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes where the one or more requested circuit design resources are located.

64. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal; and

sending information to the at least one user node on how to obtain each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal.

65. (new) The method of claim 64, wherein the information sent to the at least one user node comprises a username and password.

66. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requests from the at least one user node can be fulfilled at the portal; and

forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

67. (new) The method of claim 54, further comprising:  
maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from the at least one user node at the portal.
68. (new) The method of claim 54, further comprising:  
maintaining profile data on each of the plurality of user and supplier nodes at the portal.
69. (new) A computer program product that includes a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to execute a process for providing remotely located circuit design resources, the process comprising:  
connecting a plurality of user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;  
connecting a plurality of supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;  
making available a plurality of circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the plurality of circuit design resources being located in one of the plurality of user and supplier nodes;  
receiving one or more requests from at least one of the plurality of user nodes for access to one or more of the plurality of circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the at least one user node; and  
automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node.
70. (new) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.
71. (new) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of virtual circuit blocks, each of the plurality of virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.
72. (new) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of electronic design automation tools.
73. (new) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:  
determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal;

acquiring each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal from one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes; and  
transmitting the one or more requested circuit design resources to the at least one user node.

74. (new) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal; and

providing information to the at least one user node on how to access each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal.

75. (new) The computer program product of claim 74, wherein the information provided to the at least one user node comprises linking information to one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes where the one or more requested circuit design resources are located.

76. (new) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal; and

sending information to the at least one user node on how to obtain each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal.

77. (new) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requests from the at least one user node can be fulfilled at the portal; and

forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

78. (new) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the process further comprises:

maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from the at least one user node at the portal.

79. (new) A system for providing remotely located circuit design resources, the system comprising:  
means for connecting a plurality of user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;

means for connecting a plurality of supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;

means for making available a plurality of circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the plurality of circuit design resources being located in one of the plurality of user and supplier nodes;

means for receiving one or more requests from at least one of the plurality of user nodes for access to one or more of the plurality of circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the at least one user node; and

means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node.

80. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

81. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of virtual circuit blocks, each of the plurality of virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

82. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of electronic design automation tools.

83. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal;

means for acquiring each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal from one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes; and

means for transmitting the one or more requested circuit design resources to the at least one user node.

84. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal; and

means for providing information to the at least one user node on how to access each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal.

85. (new) The system of claim 84, wherein the information provided to the at least one user node comprises linking information to one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes where the one or more requested circuit design resources are located.

86. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the one or more requested circuit design resources are located on the portal; and

means for sending information to the at least one user node on how to obtain each of the one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal.

87. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the one or more requests from the at least one user node can be fulfilled at the portal; and

means for forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

88. (new) The system of claim 79, wherein the process further comprises:

means for maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from the at least one user node at the portal.